



2023-24 St Joseph's Catholic Primary Parents' Code of Conduct



A guide to successfully support you on your journey supporting your child through school

ST JOSEPH'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

DATE RENEWED: NOVEMBER 2023

NEXT RENEWAL: NOVEMBER 2024

At St Joseph's RC Primary School we are very fortunate to have a supportive and friendly parent body. Our parents recognise that educating children is a process that involves a positive partnership between parents, class teachers and the school community.

As a partnership, our parents will understand the importance of a good working relationship to equip children with the necessary skills for adulthood. For these reasons we continue to welcome and encourage parents/carers to participate fully in the life of our school. This can be seen through:

- Start of Year Meetings
- Communication through Class Dojo
- Workshops
- Attendance of liturgies
- Official parental meetings
- Class Masses
- Special events such as Coffee Mornings
- Children showing off their work

The purpose of this policy is to provide a reminder to all parents, carers and visitors to our school about the expected conduct. This is so we can continue to flourish, progress and achieve in an atmosphere of mutual understanding.

Please remember that at St. Joseph's we have to consider all of the children. We will not get every decision right and you may disagree with some outcomes and policies. However, we can promise that all decisions will be made when in full possession of the facts and with the best wishes of the children in mind.

Please also note that the school **chooses** to invite parents on to the premises. Many schools insist that children are dropped at the school gate. At St. Joseph's we wish to continue to foster excellent links with parents. However, we must insist that the following guidelines are followed for this to continue.

At our school, we expect parents, carers and visitors to:

- Respect the caring ethos of our school



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- Understand that both teachers and parents need to work together for the benefit of their children.
- Demonstrate that **all** members of the school community should be treated with respect and therefore set a good example in their own speech and behaviour.
- Seek to clarify a child's version of events with the school's view in order to bring about a peaceful solution to any issue.
- Correct own child's behaviour especially in public where it could otherwise lead to conflict, aggressive behaviour or unsafe behaviour.
- Approach the school to help resolve any issues of concern.
- Avoid using staff as threats to admonish children's behaviour.
- Seek to clarify a child's version of events with the school's view in order to bring about a peaceful solution to any issue
- Be concerned with and correct their own child's behaviour, especially where it could lead to conflict
- Note that the school can not and will not discuss behaviour sanctions and approaches used for other children for legal reasons.
- Remember that staff will not conduct conversations about something that they wish to question in a public domain. This will be done in private and often parents will be required to make an appointment.

In order to support a peaceful and safe school environment the school does not tolerate:

- Disruptive behaviour which interferes or threatens to interfere with the operation of a classroom, office, office area or any other area of the school grounds
- Using loud/or offensive language, swearing, cursing, using profane language or displaying temper.
- Verbal abuse of any member of the school community that may insult them or question their honesty or integrity.
- Threatening to do actual bodily harm to a member of school staff, Governor, visitor, fellow parent/carer or pupil regardless of whether or not the behaviour constitutes a criminal offence.
- Damaging or destroying school property.
- Abusive or threatening e-mails or text/voicemail/phone messages or other written communication
- Defamatory, offensive or derogatory comments regarding the school or any of the pupils/parent/staff, at the school on Facebook or other social sites (see Appendix 1). Any concerns you may have about the school must be made through the appropriate channels, which includes the school Complaints Procedure. You can speak to the class teacher, in the first instance, Key Stage Co-ordinator, the Deputy Head, the Head Teacher or the Chair of Governors, so they can be dealt with fairly, appropriately and



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effectively for all concerned. If you are not happy with the outcome, you can also ask for a copy of the Complaints Procedure and follow the steps for formal complaint.

- The use of physical or verbal aggression towards another adult or child. This includes physical punishment against your own child on school premises.
- Approaching someone else's child in order to discuss or chastise them because of the actions of this child towards their own child. (Such an approach to a child may be seen to be an assault on that child and may have legal consequences).
- Smoking and consumption of alcohol or other drugs whilst on school property.
- Dogs being brought on to school premises as not all children or adults enjoy their company.

Should **any** of the above behaviour occur on school premises the school may feel it is necessary to contact the appropriate authorities and will reserve the right to ban the offending adult from entering the school grounds.

We trust that parents and carers will assist our school with the implementation of this policy and we thank you for your continuing support of the school. Please make all persons responsible for collecting children aware of this policy.

SAFEGUARDING:

Furthermore, should a child make a disclosure or staff make an observation with regard to any aspect of their wellbeing, it is our responsibility to have a conversation with parents about this and possibly refer the incident to Social Services. This does not mean in any way that the school is passing any sort of judgement on a parent but it is our job for the child's voice to be heard so that the matter can be fully and fairly investigated.

APPENDIX 1:

Inappropriate use of Social Network Site

Social media websites are being used increasingly to fuel campaigns and complaints against schools, Head Teachers, school staff, and in some cases other parents/pupils.

The Governors of St Joseph's RC Primary School consider the use of social media websites being used in this way as unacceptable and not in the best interests of the children or the whole school community.

Any concerns you may have must be made through the appropriate channels by speaking to the class teacher, Key Stage co-ordinator, the Deputy Head, the Head Teacher or the Chair of Governors, so they can be dealt with fairly, appropriately and effectively for all concerned.

In the event that any pupil or parent/carer of a child/ren being St Joseph's Primary School is found to be posting libellous or defamatory comments on Facebook or other social network sites, they will be reported to the appropriate 'report abuse' section of the network site.



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All social network sites have clear rules about the content which can be posted on the site and they provide robust mechanisms to report contact or activity which breaches this. The school will also expect that any parent/carer or pupil removes such comments immediately.

In serious cases the school will also consider its legal options to deal with any such misuse of social networking and other sites. Additionally, and perhaps more importantly is the issue of cyber bullying and the use by one child or a parent to publicly humiliate another or a member of school staff by inappropriate social network entry. We will take and deal with this as a serious incident of school bullying. Thankfully such incidents are extremely rare.